



Happy Holidays!

CFF @ BSSD

News and notes about Classrooms For the Future at Blairsville-Saltsburg School District

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'Tis The Season To Collaborate: Making Connections Between Blairsville and Saltsburg

On December 22nd, BSSD elementary students will travel to the moon. Meanwhile, on December 19th, middle school students will monitor volcanic and hurricane activity on the island of Montserrat.

And the best part is ... Blairsville and Saltsburg students will do it together.

Challenge students from both sides of the district have spent the past month preparing for their **e-Missions**; simulated, problem-based, learning adventures delivered to the classroom via distance learning technology. With the use of the internet and video conferencing equipment, these "live" scenarios are conducted in the classroom by a Flight Director at Mission Control from the Challenger Learning Center.

The elementary classes will meet at Saltsburg Elementary for *Moon, Mars, and Beyond* and the middle school classes will combine at Blairsville Middle School on a different date for *Operation Montserrat*.

During the lessons leading up to the e-Mission, Mrs. Kunkle and Ms. Jake had their students collaborate using classroom **web cams** and a free communication program called **Skype** that allows users to make telephone calls with video over the Internet.

Think about ways you can collaborate with a CFF classroom on the other side of the district. Doing something simple like a class discussion involves little preparation and has many benefits.

Skype is already installed on CFF teacher laptops; you simply need to create an account. Year 2 teacher laptops have an integrated webcam and Year 1 teachers can access the available portable webcams.



The Hurricane, Volcano, Evacuation, and Communication teams work to save the residents of Montserrat.

Important Dates:

Holiday Break	Dec 23-Jan 4
In Service - Tech Training, all CFF teachers at SMHS	Jan 19
In Service - CFF Course in your own building	Jan 30

Tools For Collaboration

Students can log on to Wikispaces using their school username and passwords. Create a wiki with a teacher in another building to extend learning beyond your classroom. Students can discuss articles, proofread writing, explain solutions to math problems, provide geographic data, or offer alternate ideas on historical events.

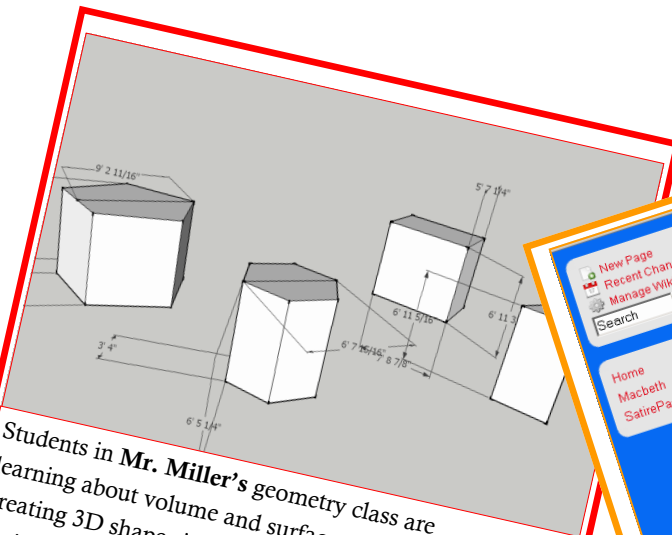


Share class presentations, invite a guest speaker, or simply call to say hello! With Skype, you can make voice calls, video calls, or text messaging.

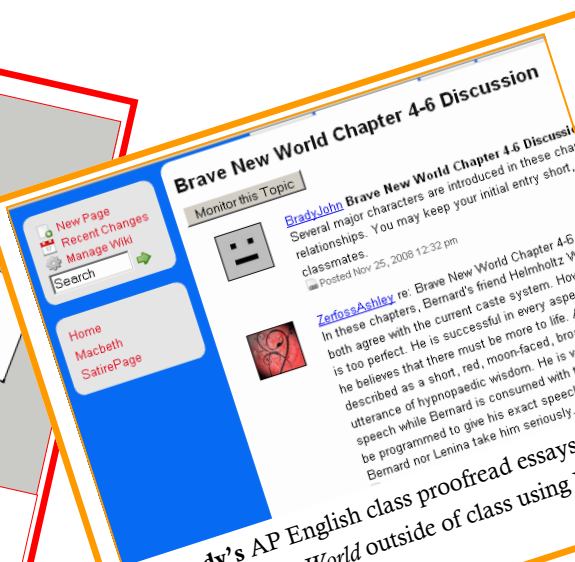
Skype is an excellent way to contact me for instant help if I'm not in your building. Create an account and add me: **sisenberg311**



TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT STUDENTS ARE CREATING!



Students in **Mr. Miller's** geometry class are learning about volume and surface area by creating 3D shapes in **Google Sketch Up**. Soon, they'll design homes and put them on **Google Earth**.



Mr. Brady's AP English class proofread essays and discussed *Brave New World* outside of class using **Wikispaces**.



To demonstrate knowledge of the planets, some students in **Mrs. Palazzi's** general science class created web pages that advertised travel deals to Saturn!



Discovery Education

Using **Windows Movie Maker** and **Discovery Education**, students in **Mrs. Lasher's** health class created informational videos about the dangers of drug use.

FOUR SITES TO SEE OVER BREAK

BUBBL.US

www.bubbl.us

Create graphic organizers or mind maps to print, save, share, or post!

GLOGSTER

www.glogster.com/edu

Create an interactive online poster with links, photos, text, stickers, sound, music, animation and more!

XTIMELINE

www.xtimeline.com

Free web-based timeline. Easily create and share timelines with pictures and videos.

THINKFINITY

www.thinkfinity.org

Search for interactive content in every subject area to use on your Promethean board.